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The Local Angle:

REGIONAL INFORMATION OFFICES

The U.S. Department of Labor operates through 10 regional offices located in major cities across the country. If you want a local angle on a news or feature story provided through this service--or have a direct news inquiry--you may contact one of the offices listed below. This listing includes the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Assistant Regional Directors for Information and the states in their regions:

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Region II	Edward I. Weintraub Room 3510 1515 Broadway New York, N.Y. 10036 212-971-5477	New Jersey New York Puerto Rico Virgin Islands
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BLACK NAMED TO KEY POSITION
WITH U.S. LABOR DEPARTMENT IN DENVER

WASHINGTON -- Henry C. Lee Jr. has been named area director of the Labor-Management Services Administration's (LMSA) Denver area office, Assistant Secretary of Labor Paul J. Fasser Jr. has announced.

Lee, a 45-year-old black had served as deputy area director of the LMSA Los Angeles area office prior to his new appointment.

Before that he had been a compliance officer in the LMSA San Francisco area office, a general investigator in the LMSA Newark, New Jersey area office and a claims unit supervisor for the Social Security Administration.

Lee, a native of New York City, holds an A.B. from New York University (1953) and served in the U.S. Army.

LMSA directs and coordinates the Labor Department's labor-management relations programs which include:

-- Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act -- requires labor organizations to file annual financial reports with the Department, bond financial officers, conduct election of officers in a democratic fashion, and assure union members certain rights.

-- Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 -- establishes fiduciary - "prudent man" - standards for administrators of plan assets.

-- Federal Labor-Management Relations - Executive Order 11491, as amended -- gives responsibility to Assistant Secretary of Labor for Labor-Management Relations to handle unfair labor practice charges, unit determinations and representation elections of Federal employee unions and to administer standards of conduct regulations, and

-- Veterans' Reemployment Rights -- the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, passed by Congress Dec. 3, 1974, provides that those who leave employment to serve in the Armed Services have certain reemployment rights they can exercise following their return to civilian life.

# # #

21 PERCENT BLACK PARTICIPATION RATE
IN LABOR DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS FOR ELDERLY POOR

WASHINGTON -- Two Labor Department programs provided part-time community service jobs for more than 21,800 economically disadvantaged persons 55 and older in the year ending June 30, 1975, Secretary of Labor John T. Dunlop said.

Blacks accounted for 21 percent of the 13,724 older workers who were enrolled in both programs as of June 30.

The aim of the two programs--the National Older Workers Program (Operation Mainstream) and the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)--is to provide communities with a pool of experienced workers who can perform helpful public services and at the same time keep their work skills from growing rusty from lack of use, Dr. Dunlop said.

Jobs were furnished for 14,827 people by Operation Mainstream at a federal cost of $26,190,000, and for 6,975 by SCSEP at an outlay of $7,738,000.

Participants worked at day care centers, senior citizen centers, nutrition program for the elderly, home-health care projects, hospitals schools, and conservation and restoration projects, many of which are in national forests.

Services included physical examinations, personal and job-related counseling, consumer information, job training, and referral and placement into unsubsidized jobs. Wages averaged approximately $2.25 an hour.

The two programs employ five organizations: Green Thumb, Inc., an arm of the National Farmers Union; the National Council on the Aging; the National Council of Senior Citizens; the National Retired Teachers Association--American Association of Retired Persons; and the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Most of the organizations have participated in Operation Mainstream since 1968, and were involved in the start-up of SCSEP in June 1974. They operate projects in 47 States, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico.

# # #

Week of October 20, 1975

LABOR DEPARTMENT SIMPLIFIES PENSION PLAN DESCRIPTION REPORT FORM

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Labor Department proposed in the Federal Register of Oct. 10, a shorter, simpler plan description form (EBS-1) for pension and welfare plan reports.

The new form, which replaces an earlier version issue last May, is designed to ease the filing task of plan administrators under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. (ERISA). It also will allow the Labor Department to more quickly process the form when it is received.

The Labor Department was aided in the revision of the EBS-1 form by numerous comments and recommendations from the public, according to Pension and Welfare Benefit Programs Administrator James D. Hutchinson.

"We are extremely grateful to the people who took the time to submit suggestions for improving the EBS-1," Hutchinson said. "This revised form is a good example of how the federal government and the public can work together to reduce red tape."

The revised form can be completed just by checking off the correct answer blocks. It eliminates the written answers required by the earlier EBS-1. The changed format will allow machine processing of the entire form, as well as giving plan administrators a better idea of what information is needed.

Most pension plans, and certain welfare plans, must file EBS-1 forms with the Secretary of Labor. For covered plans in existence on or before Jan. 31, 1976, the filing date is May 30, 1976. Others must file within 120 days after they come into existence or become subject to ERISA.

The public may submit comments and suggestions to Plan Description Comments, Office of Employee Benefits Security, U.S. Department of Labor, 3rd Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20216 by Nov. 10, 1975.

Copies of the Federal Register containing the revised EBS-1 may be obtained by writing or calling Public Information Office, Room N-5641, U.S. Department of Labor, 3rd, Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20216, telephone (202) 523-7408.

# # #

Dear Consumer

Saving Energy In A Big Way

By Virginia Knauer

Special Assistant to the President and Director
Office of Consumer Affairs
Department of Health, Education and Welfare

You've installed storm windows. You're turning off lights. You walk—don't drive—whenever you possibly can.

But what about others in your community?

While I believe it is important for energy conservation to be the goal of every family, I know there must also be a community effort if our Nation is really going to save energy.

That's why I'm pleased to report about a new project of the League of Women Voters. League chapters throughout the country are gearing up to spark energy-conservation activities in their own communities. They will be seeking the cooperation of many other community groups.

Some league chapters are already on the move. In Austin, Tex., the league is working to conserve energy in the city's transportation network. In Suffolk County, N.Y., the league is acting as an intervenor in public hearings on the siting of nuclear energy plants.

The national league started laying the groundwork for this kind of grassroots action by first organizing area conferences on energy-conservation.

There they brought together persons representing organizations of consumers, veterans, women, senior citizens, youth, welfare recipients, food processors, builders, truckers, fuel suppliers—to name only a few.

This is an amazingly broad spectrum of American life, and I am pleased that my office has had an opportunity to cooperate with the league in starting this program.

In the next step, local league chapters will choose and develop action projects tailored to the needs of their own communities.

If you want to become part of this movement, watch this newspaper for announcements of league activities in your community. You might also start the ball rolling for your own organization to consider working with the league.

If you have questions, you may write to Energy Task Force, League of Women Voters, 1730 M St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. Also available from that address are these publications: **How to Plan an Environmental Conference** (#695, free); **Energy Briefs** (#552, $1), 16 fact sheets on such topics as utility rates, petrodollars, land use and energy.

Week of October 20, 1975

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Weekly earnings of full-time workers rose about 9 percent from May 1974 to May 1975, the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Because consumer prices rose by about the same percentage, the average purchasing power of full-time workers was unchanged over this period.

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Male household heads working full-time reported the highest weekly earnings average in May 1975--a median of $231, up from $214 in 1974, according to the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

# # #

Working wives with full-time jobs reported average (median) weekly earnings of $139 in May 1975. In real terms, their earnings showed no change relative to 1974 but remained lower than in 1973, according to the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

# # #

The first law limiting working hours of women to 10 hours a day was passed in Ohio in 1852, according to "Important Events in American Labor History," a publication of the U.S. Labor Department.

# # #

The first minimum wage act for women and minors was adopted by Massachusetts in 1912, according to a U.S. Labor Department publication, "Important Events in American Labor History."

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